National Policy on the Management of Hazardous Wastes

2387. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India has urged for a national policy on the management of hazardous and other wastes to reduce the volume of waste; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is the reaction of the Central Government on the proposal of the ASSOCHAM ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) During the Workshop on "Waste Management as a Means to Resource Conservation and Pollution Control" organised by the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry on February 1, 1991, a number of recommendations were made for the management and reduction of hazardous and other wastes.

The Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules; 1989 and the Guidelines for Management and Handling of Hazardous Wastes provide for the national regulation on hazardous wastes. Suggestions received from different sources have also been duly considered and have been taken care of in the 'Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution' issued by the Ministry in February, 1992.

Assistance received under Global Environment Facility

2388. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently received $ 12 million under the recently set up Global Environment Facility for the conservation of protected areas like national parks and sanctuaries;

(b) if so, the details of the national parks and sanctuaries on which the investments would be made; and

(c) to what extent the national parks and sanctuaries would be protected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Vehicular pollution affecting Delhi Children

2389. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the children of Delhi and New Delhi areas are seriously affected by the vehicular pollution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) No conclusive studies are available to indicate that the children of Delhi and New Delhi are affected by the levels of Vehicular Pollution. However, the possible effects of vehicular pollution on human health include respiratory and bronchial diseases, giddiness, damage to the central nervous system, kidney and lungs. Children and older people are more easily affected.

The steps taken by the Government to control vehicular pollution include the following :—

(i) Gross and mass emission standards for all types of vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(ii) Draft notification in respect of mass emission standards for petrol and diesel driven vehicles for the year 1995 has been issued under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(iii) Steps have been initiated to introduce compressed natural gas (CNG) as an alternative fuel for petrol and diesel in major metropolitan cities.

(iv) Public awareness campaigns have been launched.